

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are currently pending. Claims 1, 4-6, 8-19, and 21 are allowed.
Claims 2, 3, 7, and 20 stand rejected.

35 U.S.C. §112 Rejections

Claims 2, 3, 7, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the claims remain rejected because in the Markush group, the phrase “consisting essentially of” does not particularly point out the metes and bounds of the subject matter for which the applicants seek patent protection. In order to expedite patent prosecution of the instant application, applicants have amended the claims to replace “consisting essentially of” with “consisting of.” Applicants have addressed the Examiner’s concerns and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the §112, second paragraph rejection.

Applicants acknowledge that claims 1, 4-6, 8-19, and 21 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' undersigned agent to discuss any remaining issues. Allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested. Early and favorable action by the Examiner is earnestly solicited.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 3097-4008US1. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.


In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 3097-4008US1. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: January 7, 2005

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